

William J. Clothier Is Dead at 80, Horseman, Ex-Tennis Champion

**Retired Head of Coal Firm
Elected to Hall of Fame—
Was Breeder of Hounds**

Special to The New York Times.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 5 — William Jackson Clothier, sportsman and former national tennis champion, died last night at his home, Valley Hill Farm, in Valley Forge. He was 80 years old.

Mr. Clothier was the son of Isaac Clothier, a founder of the Strawbridge & Clothier department store here. He began his business career as a partner in the investment banking firm of Montgomery, Clothier & Tyler.

When that firm was dissolved in 1921, he became president of the Boone County Coal Corporation at Sharples, W. Va. He held that post until his retirement in 1937.

Mr. Clothier's enthusiasm for tennis and riding horses continued for most of his life. His retirement as master of the Pickering Hunt Club in Phoenixville in 1955 ended a fox hunting career that covered forty years.

In Top 10 for 11 Years

From 1901 to 1914 he was ranked among the first ten tennis players in the nationals eleven times.

Mr. Clothier won the Pennsylvania singles tennis championship five years and in 1903 and 1904 reached the final rounds of the national lawn tennis championship games at Newport, R. I. In 1905 he was a member of the first Davis Cup team to go to England and the next year he won the national tennis singles championship at Newport.

When the national Lawn Tennis Hall of Fame and Tennis Museum was founded at Newport in 1954, Mr. Clothier was elected its first president. Later he became chairman of the board. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1956.

Mr. Clothier's enthusiasm for riding and fox hunting resulted in many injuries. It also kindled his interest in an allied endeavor — the breeding and raising of hounds. On the eve of his wedding in 1906 to Anita Porter, Mr. Clothier's pelvis was fractured in a fall from a horse. The ceremony was performed in the bridegroom's bed chamber at the family estate, Ballytore.

Some of the country's lead-



William J. Clothier

ing horse fanciers used Mr. Clothier's 700-acre farm as a gathering place until 1950 when the mansion was destroyed by fire. Among his best-known thoroughbreds were Brasseau, Meltonere, Tecopa, Henchman and Pine Pép.

He was graduated from Haverford School in 1899 and attended Swarthmore College for two years before going to Harvard, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1904.

Mr. Clothier was a member of the American Friends Service Committee and a director of Freedoms Foundation, the Boy Scouts of America, the Philadelphia Charity Ball and Graduate Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He also was a member of the Sons of the Revolution and the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania.

His clubs included Merion Cricket, Philadelphia, Rumson Country, Racquet of Philadelphia, Racquet and Tennis of New York, Seabright Beach and Haverford Varsity. Also the All England Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club and the International Lawn Tennis Clubs of the United States, Great Britain and Australia.

Mr. Clothier's wife died in 1955. He leaves a son, William J. 2d; two daughters, Mrs. Clothier Packard of Valley Forge and Mrs. Thomas Killefer of McLean, Va.; a sister, Mrs. John Rogers Maxwell Jr. of Bryn Mawr; seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.